

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 /063 W

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R 141543Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8471

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 09370

E.O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: PFOR, GW, FR

SUBJECT: FRG PRESIDENT SCHEEL'S VISIT TO FRANCE

IN RECENT DISCUSSION WITH US, PLAISANT (QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR CENTRAL EUROPE) REVIEWED CURRENT PLANNING FOR FRG PRESIDENT SCHEEL'S VISIT TO PARIS APRIL 21. PLAISANT SAID THIS WOULD BE A STRICTLY PROTOCOLARY VISIT, AND WAS NOT DESIGNED TO ENGAGE THE GERMANS IN DETAILED SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS. ACCORDING TO PLAISANT, A GERMAN PRESIDENT HAS NOT VISITED FRANCE FOR THE PAST 14 YEARS. HEINEMAN HAD PLANNED TO VISIT PARIS SEVERAL YEARS AGO, BUT FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER HIS TRIP WAS POSTPONED, THE LAST POSTPONEMENT BEING CAUSED BY POMPIDOU'S DEATH. PLAISANT ADDED THAT CURRENT PLANNING FORESEES A ONE HOUR DISCUSSION BETWEEN GISCARD AND SCHEEL, WHICH WILL PROBABLY BE EVEN SHORTER IN TERMS OF CONTACT SINCE TRANSLATION WILL BE REQUIRED. NOTING THAT BOTH PRESIDENTS HAVE HIGHLY DEVELOPED POLITICAL SENSES, PLAISANT AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE REASONABLE TO EXPECT SOME SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE TWO, NOTWITHSTANDING THE GENERALLY NON-SUBSTANTIVE NATURE OF THE VISIT. EVEN SO, PLAISANT SAYS THE QUAI IS NOT PROVIDING GISCARD WITH A SUBSTANTIVELY WEIGHTY BRIEFING

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MEMO FOR THE SCHEEL VISIT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ITINERARY, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchandr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PARIS09370
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750130-0090
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750453/aaaabwwe.tel
Line Count: 62
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchandr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2003 by buchandr>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRG PRESIDENT SCHEEL'S VISIT TO FRANCE IN RECENT DISCUSSION WITH US, PLAISANT (QUAI DEPUTY
TAGS: PFOR, GE, FR, (SCHEEL, WALTER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006